TOP MESSAGES

No reporter covering this Muslim Ban expansion should cover it in isolation. This is not an isolated policy, it is a broad campaign against non-whites. This is not okay. Trump's Immigration-policy architect Steven Miller's own emails show he favors and shares white nationalism. Trump himself has called white supremacists "very fine people." Trump said that Nigerians will "never go back to their huts" once they have seen America. [last point h/t America's Voice]

We can't allow Trump to continue this erratic national security decision making. Our elected leaders must take action to reign him in and defend the Constitution's religious freedom protections. This is another piece of a broad campaign targeting non-whites. Americans today recognize white supremacist violence as the most likely source of a mass attack, yet the administration prefers to focus on its campaign against what the President deems "sh*thole" countries. It is a campaign marked by unprecedented cruelty to children and families, horrific conditions at detention centers, and lawless action such as the government recently deporting a person with a valid visa in spite of a judge's order. Trump's Immigration-policy architect Steven Miller's own emails show he favors and shares white nationalism. Trump himself has called white supremacists "very fine people." We are for evidence-based security policy, not policy based on whim, a craving for headlines, and election-year gifts to his political base.

We should focus on what is going on. Trump promised and delivered a Muslim Ban. Now he seeks to celebrate its third birthday by reminding his base of that promise kept. It's odd that he is now afraid to call it a Muslim Ban. Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani confirmed that he was asked to find a legal way to implement a Muslim Ban. Any expansion is about reminding his base of his delivered promise during an election year and a component of his broader campaign targeting non-whites. Trump is afraid to call his Muslim Ban a Muslim Ban. He promised it on the campaign trail and then delivered it in his first days in office. Given January 27th was the third anniversary of the Muslim Ban, he knows what his base will hear with the expansion. Trump is also scared because he knows his Muslim Ban needed a lot of editing to get past the Supreme Court and now that other legal challenges are advancing he feels a need to mask it even more.

Washington, D.C. - Today, the Trump administration announced additional countries in an expanded Muslim travel ban. This iteration will suspend visas that can lead to permanent residency for people from Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar and Nigeria, and will also end diversity visas to nationals of Sudan and Tanzania.

According to a report by Vox, the expansion of the ban would likely hit Nigeria the hardest. The largest African country by population was granted almost 14,000 green cards and 222,000 temporary visas in 2018.

Sanaa Abrar, Advocacy Director of United We Dream, said:

"Time and again I have seen this racist and anti-Muslim president attack communities like mine, whether through hateful rhetoric or multiple bans meant to target Muslim people and their families.

All of these policies are based on a desire to exclude and deport communities of color. Let's be clear, today's announcement is also rooted in Islamophobia and is connected to other attacks from this administration, including Trump closing our borders to asylum-seekers, imposing a racially motivated wealth test on immigrants through the "public charge" rule, caging Black and brown children at our border and demonizing their parents to justify doing so, and killing DACA and TPS protections.

We won't be silent in the face of this shameful expansion of the Muslim Ban. We'll keep fighting back against this in our communities, in the courts, and in Congress by demanding passage of the NO BAN Act."

Washington, DC - The Trump Administration today released a proclamation announcing an expansion of the Muslim Ban to include the following countries: ***Myannmar, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan , Eritrea, Sudan and Tanzania***. The restrictions on Myanmar, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan and Eritrea include issuance of new immigrant visas. Meanwhile, the ban will exclude nationals from the countries of Sudan and Tanzania from eligibility for the diversity visa program. The aforementioned restrictions, which target those with intent to reside in the United States, will take effect February 22, 2020 according to DHS.

This is not the first time that the Trump Administration has targeted Black diaspora in general and nationals from African countries in particular. From the attacks on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) on Sudan in 2017, to the visa sanctions on Eritrea in the same year, the white house has been consistent with their hate for Black Muslims.

Since the first version of the Muslim Ban in 2017, we have seen an increase in the detention and deportion of nationals from the white house list, including Abdi, a Somali green card holder, father and husband, as well as many other Black Muslims who have been racially profiled and criminalized at our borders and airports across the country.

"One thing is true, the Muslim Ban like all immigration sanctions brought under this administration are wholly and fully irresponsible and unnecessary. Another thing is true, this country has a real problem with Blackness and any proximity to it.

The reasons keep changing about why it is that the Trump administration wants to keep Black and brown people out. And that's because there is no honest reason, except for racism and xenophobia. Behind these bans and visa sanctions are real people with real families — facing the pain and uncertainty that family separation brings.

The attack on African migration isn't a new tactic--from abruptly ending Temporary Protected Status, to the 2017 visa sanctions on Eritrea, and a 21% drop in Nigerians traveling to the US due to visa restrictions -- this expansion will be a continuation of Trump's white supremacist agenda seeking to end the migration of Black and Brown people."

Earlier today, just days after the third anniversary of the Muslim Ban, this administration has struck again by adding six more countries to this racist policy. Nationals of Myanmar, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan and Eritrea will be banned from seeking immigrant visas and nationals of Sudan and Tanzania will be banned from the diversity visa lottery. While it is expected that Nigerians will be most impacted in number, it is also painful to see that Muslim refugees fleeing genocide in Myanmar will be turned away by our nation just as Jewish refugees were decades ago during the Holocaust.

One thing is clear, the Muslim Ban was this administration's first family separation policy just days after the presidential inauguration in January, 2017, and it has served as the foundational policy for targeting communities of color ever since. Since then, we have seen attacks on DACA, TPS, diversity lottery, green cards, public benefits, refugees, asylum seekers, pregnant women, and others to institutionalize a white supremacist agenda.

And since 2017, SAALT has documented an uptick in white supremacist hate violence aimed at Muslims and those racialized as Muslim, including 350 incidents of hate and 200 instances of xenophobic or Islamophobic rhetoric from media outlets and elected officials. Our 2018 report "Communities on Fire" found that Muslim women wearing hijab and individuals with darker skin color were more frequently the targets of the most violent acts of hate. This runs parallel to today's expansion of the Muslim Ban targeting Muslim majority African nations.

Congress has the power to end all of this by passing the NO BAN Act. This legislation would immediately rescind the Muslim Ban and limit the executive branch's authority to exercise such wide and unchecked discretion in issuing racist policies. Today's expansion of the Muslim Ban underscores the need to pass a clean NO BAN Act with no exceptions because even the smallest opening can unleash such widespread destruction.